

## WE CAN'T GET AWAY FROM GOD, THOUGH WE CAN IGNORE HIM

"Get away from it all" is a motto echoed by many in these hectic-paced and trying times. People do need on occasion, to get away from the job, the city, the noise, the problems, etc. Sadly, many are trying to get away from God also.

Some try to get away from God by denying He exists. Psalm 14:1 says, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God". Do the stars cease to shine if we say in the day "they don't exist"? They always reappear in the night. God is there, whether men recognize it or not.

Some try to get away from God by refusing to hear His word. The prophet Zechariah said concerning the rebellious people of God, "...they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the Lord of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the Lord of hosts" (Zech. 7:11-12). But refusing to hear God's word wouldn't stop God's threats (Zech. 7:13-14). We must hear (Rom. 10:17) and believe and be baptized (Acts 18:8) in order to be saved.

Some try to get away from God by submerging themselves in the pleasures of this world (I Tim. 5:6). More and more men's thoughts over emphasize worldly things to take God's place. But many unhappy souls are learning the thrill of harlotry turns into the agony of the illicit. The road of worldliness glitters only for a season (Heb. 11:25).

Lives are wasted, minds destroyed, misery and dissatisfaction run rampant, all because people try to escape God.

In the judgment, no man will succeed in avoiding Jehovah. We are told by Paul, "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:10-11). If you will hunger and thirst after righteousness (Matt. 5:6), God promises wonderful things (Eph. 1:3, 7; Matt. 6:33; Heb. 13:5).

Note: The above article was written and published in the local newspaper on Nov. 8, 1985. I just ran across it and decided to print it here. It's still all truth!

*Robert*

## ALWAYS TRY TO STAY IN A SAFE PLACE

After bearing Jacob six sons, Leah, wife of Jacob and sister to Jacobs other wife, Rachel, bore a daughter named Dinah (Gen. 30:20-21). Some years later, the Bible tells us that "Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her" (Gen. 34:1-2). This resulted in the killing of all the males in the city of Hamor as well as the taking of all the spoil and the women and children (Gen. 34:13-30). That we wish to pay attention to is that Dinah went to where there was danger. Had she stayed at home, she would have been safe. Before anyone jumps to conclusions, NO, we are not suggesting that the rape of Dinah was Dinah's fault. What we are suggesting is that we all ought to always recognize that if we place ourselves in the path of danger that could be avoided, we are taking a chance that we will be harmed. The text says that Dinah went "to see the daughters of the land". Was it idle curiosity? It would at least seem that it was not a necessity that she go there. Staying away would have been safer.

Multitudes of both men and women have fallen prey to both physical and spiritual harm because they placed themselves in dangerous situations. The wisdom of Solomon stated, "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?" (Proverbs 6:27-28). Enough temptations, harm and heartache will be experienced without begging for more by way of our carelessness. Often, it is not the location that is the danger, but the company we are in that is the danger. Paul wrote, "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners" (I Cor. 15:33).

There are numerous passages in the New Testament that instruct us to stay away from sin to the best of our abilities. Paul said, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing" (II Cor. 6:17). Peter said, "Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it" (I Pet. 3:11). Temptations will come (I Cor. 10:13). One can't escape being around those who would have us follow their pernicious ways (I Cor. 5:9-10), but the Lord expects us to use good judgment when it comes to attempting to stay in a safe place.

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